



## Congressman Bud Cramer

March 2005  
E-Newsletter

The State of Alabama lost two political icons this month with the passing of former U.S. Senator Howell Heflin and former U.S. Representative Tom Bevill. Both of these men set a standard for all leaders to follow. Senator Heflin and Congressman Bevill achieved great fame and influence on the national stage in Congress, but neither one of them forgot the people of Alabama and the challenges our state faced. They worked tirelessly to make Alabama an even better state. I was fortunate to serve with these gentlemen in Washington. They taught me a great deal on how to be a better Representative for North Alabama. I could always count on their advice during and after their time in Washington. They will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to their families.

*Bud Cramer*

### Washington Update

This month, the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (TEA-LU). TEA-LU provides \$283.9 billion over six years for federal highway aid, public transportation, and transportation safety and research programs. A number of North Alabama road projects were authorized through this legislation. They include:

- \$10 million for the Patton Island Bridge Corridor
- \$3 million for the Huntsville Southern Bypass
- \$1 million for the Interchange at I-65 and Limestone County Road 24
- \$1 million for the Jackson County Industrial Park Access Road

Additionally, Representatives Cramer and Robert Aderholt worked together to get \$7 million for the west extension of Interstate 565 towards Decatur and \$1.3 million for the extension and widening of Alabama Highway 36 in Hartselle.

The House also approved this month a Supplemental Appropriations bill to support our service men and women. Specifically, it provides \$81.3 billion for operations and support in Iraq and Afghanistan. Cramer is a member of the House Appropriations Committee, which approved this funding prior to House Passage. Cramer said, "This legislation provides much needed funding for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. I have repeatedly supported our soldiers and will continue to fight for resources to help them safely accomplish their missions."

This Supplemental bill also increases the military death gratuity from \$12,000 to \$100,000 and subsidized life insurance benefits from \$250,000 to \$400,000 for families of soldiers who died or were killed while on active duty beginning October 7, 2001. "When a soldier is willing to risk their lives to protect our freedoms, it is of the utmost importance that we provide for their families after they are gone. I am pleased that my colleagues support these benefits for the families of our fallen soldiers," said Cramer.

Cramer was awarded the "Spirit of Enterprise" Award from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce this month. The Chamber recognized the Congressman for his support of policies important to American businesses during the second session of the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress. This is the ninth time that Cramer has received this award. "As your Representative in Washington, one of my top priorities is to encourage and support the continued economic growth of our community," said Cramer. "I will continue to support legislation in Washington that supports North Alabama's businesses and encourages the overall growth of our area."